

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Public Health, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of - News

Public Health Publications

1-28-2021

College of Public Health News

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/coph-news-online>



Part of the [Public Health Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "College of Public Health News" (2021). *Public Health, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of - News*. 259.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/coph-news-online/259>

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Health Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Health, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of - News by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern's Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program promotes inclusivity for LGBTQ+ students with new minor

January 28, 2021

JPHCOPH is proud to support this new academic minor with expanded LGBTQ+ health courses.



Beginning fall 2021, Georgia Southern University's Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Program will offer a new LGBTQ+-focused minor.

"The new LGBTQ+ minor is an exciting addition to our academic roster, as it provides a narrow course of study options for those folks who specifically want to work with LGBTQ+ communities and populations," said Lisa A. Costello, Ph.D., director of the WGSS Program on the Statesboro Campus. "They can add this minor to just about any major. We already have LGBTQ+ focused classes in

WGSS, and with the expanded new offerings on LGBTQ+ health in the College of Public Health, we are able to go forward with a strong array of courses."

WGSS currently offers a bachelor's and a minor in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, which highlights the intersections of gender with race, class, religion and other social identities to critique systems of power, bringing inclusive excellence and advocacy into practice. Along with the WGSS classes that exist within multiple colleges within the University, the new minor will allow students to broaden that spectrum with a concentration on LGBTQ+ issues through coursework in WGSS, public health, sociology, human ecology and writing.

The new minor is an addition to the University's dedicated, year-round efforts to promote LGBTQ+-friendly policies, programs and practices with the momentum, support and funding provided by alumnus donor Ted Tucker to the WGSS Program in 2017. The new minor is the culmination of several LGBTQ+ initiatives over the last two years that arose from the grant, including new curriculum, expanded awareness of LGBTQ+ health services and housing, dedicated LGBTQ+ counseling, an LGBTQ research library, LGBTQ+ speakers and events, a Gender Minority Closet, and Lavender graduations.



Georgia Southern President Kyle Marrero and Lisa A. Costello, Ph.D., director of the WGSS Program on the Statesboro Campus, at the University's 2019 Lavender Graduation.

As a result of this work, Georgia Southern was only one of four colleges in the state in 2020 to be listed on the Campus Pride Index, a national benchmarking tool by which parents and students can assess the LGBTQ+ inclusivity of universities. To make the index a university has to demonstrably outline its LGBTQ-friendly policies, programs and practices.

"Earning a spot on the index is monumental for the University community," stated Costello. "The Index is

important as a national ranking that sends a message to continuing and prospective students that Georgia Southern is committed to gender inclusivity.”

Posted in [None](#)